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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

(INCLUDING ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY)

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

(The size of books is given in inches to the nearest half inch.)

AMERICA

The Climate of Ohio. By J. Warren Smith. *Bull. 235. Ohio Agric. Experiment Station*, Wooster, O., 1912. Pp. 185–209.

This is a short report, consisting of five pages of text, nine tables and fourteen charts. These charts show the mean annual temperatures, dates of killing frosts, average number of days in the crop-growing season, mean annual and seasonal precipitation, mean annual snowfall, and monthly distribution of precipitation. There are also given curves showing the mean annual temperatures for Ohio for each year from 1883 to 1910, and the mean annual precipitation from 1854 to 1910. The *Bulletin* gives, in compact form, the essential climatic characteristics of the State. R. DEC. WARD.

Geology and Ore Deposits of the Butte District, Montana. By Walter Harvey Weed. 262 pp. Maps, ills. *Prof. Paper* 74, *U. S. Geol. Surv.* 1912.

Apart from its technical value, this Professional Paper contains valuable data of geographic interest on the central tract of the mountainous portion of the State of Montana. This area is partly represented on the geological map shown on Plate I.

A résumé of the physiography of the Butte district precedes its detailed geological review. The formation of the veins is ascribed to the hydrothermal alteration of the rock by metasomatic replacement which also contributed to the mineralization of the wall-rock to a slight degree. As to the source of the copper and the other metals of the quartz-pyrite veins, it is believed, although the evidence is not conclusive, that they are derived from emanations originating in a deep-seated magma. Mineralization is also shown to have been influenced by the process of secondary enrichment.

The author arrives at the conclusion that the output of the district will remain constant for some years to come and will then gradually decline. It is, of course, possible that improved methods of treatment will make pay ore of what is now called waste. The zinc ores also promise to be of great value and to add both to the material wealth and the productive period of the district. The question of ore reserves draws attention to the ephemeral life of all mining communities depending on the yield of their subsoil for their existence as geographic entities.

The main criticism of this work is to be directed against the publishers. We refer to the delay involved in the publication of Mr. Weed's results. The litigation which was in progress at the site of the mines described, ought under no circumstance to have been the cause of the temporary shelving of data of scientific and economic value. LEON DOMINIAN.

Alberta. An Account of Its Wealth and Progress. By Leo Thwaite. Porter's Progress of Nations. 250 pp. Maps, ills. George Routledge & Sons, Ltd., London, 1912. 50 cents. 8 x 5.

This Canadian Province, which has been receiving so much attention as a new agricultural land and an outlet for our own population is here attractively described. The author sketches briefly the history, constitution, and government of the province; more fully, its physical characteristics, topography, resources, soils and water-ways; its rapid development in population, industries, and communications; its cities and towns, education, finance and trade; and finally gives us a glimpse of its possible future as forecasted in its past and present.

Along its western border Alberta has the Rocky Mountains, but over 80 per cent. of its surface is undulating prairie and high plains. The plains, in a very youthful stage of dissection, are crossed from the mountains eastward by tributaries of the Peace, Athabasca and Saskatchewan rivers lying in deep valleys and uniting in these large rivers in mid-country. Between the valleys lie the plateau strips, usually with deep, rich, black soils superior to the black earth of Russia, and with a rather meager supply of water, though most of the precipitation occurs in the growing season. The stratigraphy with its coal, gas, oil, gypsum, salt and clays is much like that of the Dakotas. Irrigation is possible only near the mountains. Water-power is abundant down the valleys. Alberta is believed to have enormous horse-power. Lakes are numerous, and twenty-five are of large size. Fishing in both lakes and streams is excellent. One is surprised at the development already attained. G. D. HUBBARD.

The Selkirk Mountains. A Guide for Mountain Pilgrims and Climbers. By A. O. Wheeler and Elizabeth Parker. x and 199 pp. Maps, ills., appendix, index. Stovel Co., Winnipeg, Canada, 1912. $1.50. 5 x 7½.

This handy little volume presents in compact and readable form a large amount of information which the casual tourist as well as the more ambitious traveler will be glad to have. Opening with a sketch of the early exploration and mountaineering which are brought down to 1911 by an outline of subsequent work, the text next takes up various districts in detail and concludes with brief descriptions of the geology, flora and fauna and related matters. There are also sections on the Alpine Club of Canada and on rules, equipment, etc., for mountaineers.

The two principal chapters are devoted to the summit range contiguous to Glacier and to the Purcell Range and the country about the headwaters of the Columbia River. The latter, being new, is of especial value. In the former, the various orographical features are described alphabetically, full data as to times, distance, altitude, origin of name, location and routes of approach being set forth under each. Inasmuch as this section will be put into practical use by many of its readers, it is disappointing to discover a goodly number of minor slips and contradictions. Space forbids citation of these, but some of the more glaring errors of fact follow: Professor Parker did not climb Grand Mt. (p. 67); Purity Pass (p. 85) is not connected with Purity Glacier, nor is its altitude 9,200 feet, but 8,700 feet; Terminal Peak (p. 98) agrees in neither position nor altitude with the same as mapped; Mt. Sugarloaf cannot be climbed as described under Route 2 (p. 96); Mt. Sir Sandford was first attempted in 1907, not in 1908 (pp. 30 and 94) and not by the party mentioned; Ross Peak Station (p. 90) is too high by over 800 feet, and Beaver Creek Station (p. 49) does not exist.

Passing elsewhere, the following observations are suggested: The Columbia River flows northerly from Columbia Lake for about 175 miles, not 300 miles (p. 10). The author will find few supporters for the statement (p. 150) that heat and cold, contraction and expansion, cause large crevasses in glaciers. Porcupines, squirrels and eagles are common, pages 174 and 176 to the contrary notwithstanding.

Fifty-nine illustrations and six maps are presented. Of the former, Eagle Peak is mislabelled Mt. Avalanche (p. 34), and Mt. Purity is seen from the Bishop's Range (p. 84), not from Donkin Pass. The Cougar Brook view (p. 114) should be inverted. H. PALMER.

South American Problems. By Robert E. Speer. xi and 270 pp. Map, ills., index. Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, New York, 1912. 7½ x 5.

A singularly sober and well-considered book. Mr. Speer keeps himself in the background, but he seems to have visited every country except perhaps Venezuela, Ecuador and Paraguay and his judgments carry evidence of con-